

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 remain pending herein.

The December 23, 2009 Office Action contains an objection to the drawings. In the formal drawings, reference number “231” was inadvertently replaced with “237”. In order to correct this error, the specification is being amended to likewise replace number “231” with “237”.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claims 1 - 4, 6, 12, 13, 15 - 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,356,496 (hereinafter, “Lincoln ‘496”).

Claim 1 recites a web splicer that comprises a first roll supporter (for supporting a first core), a second roll supporter (for supporting a second core), a paster roll, a carriage driving device, and a pressing device. Claim 1 further recites that the paster roll is rotatable about a paster roll axis, that the paster roll is mounted on a carriage, and that the paster roll is movable relative to the carriage. Claim 1 also recites that the carriage driving device causes the carriage to move from a first carriage position to a second carriage position after an engage signal is fed to the carriage driving device, whereby the paster roll abuts the second roll when the carriage is in the second carriage position. Claim 1 also recites that the pressing device selectively causes force to be applied to the paster roll relative to the carriage.

Therefore, claim 1 recites (unlike Lincoln ‘496, as discussed below) a device in which a paster roll is mounted on a movable carriage, and the paster roll is movable relative to that carriage.

In the representative embodiment depicted in Figs. 1-4 of the present specification, the carriage 26 is movable (between a first position, shown in Fig. 1 and a second position, shown in Fig. 2), and the paster roll 21 is movable relative to the carriage 26 (i.e., the paster roll 21 is rotatably mounted on a paster roll bracket 22, and the paster roll bracket 22 is pivotally mounted on the carriage 26).

In more detail, in the representative embodiment depicted in Figs. 1-4 of the present specification, the servo motor 23 is activated (upon receiving an engage signal) to drive the camshaft 25 and cam 24 180 degrees, from a first orientation (shown in Fig. 1) to a second orientation (shown in Fig. 2), thereby forcing the carriage 26 to move from the first carriage position (shown in Fig. 1) to the second carriage position (shown in Fig. 2), and thereby moving the paster roll 21 from a first location (shown in Fig. 1) where it is not abutting the second roll 14, to a second location (shown in Fig. 2) where it abuts the second roll 14.

In addition, in the representative embodiment depicted in Figs. 1-4, a cylinder device 34 is provided which has a first connecting element 35 and a second connecting element 36. The first connecting element 35 is connected to the carriage 26, and the second connecting element 36 is connected to the paster roll bracket 22, so that upon actuating the cylinder device 34, because the paster roll bracket 22 is pivotally mounted on the carriage 26 (as a result of which the paster roll 21 is movable relative to the carriage 26), the paster roll 21 applies force to the paster roll 21 relative to the carriage 26.

Lincoln '496 discloses an automatic web splicing apparatus which (according to Lincoln '496) particularly addresses the problems associated with controlling the free tail which extends from the splice, by attaching or affixing the tail to the progressing web so that it cannot interfere with subsequent handling of the web. Lincoln '496 discloses a splicer or paster roll 90, as shown in FIG. 15, and is actuated by a cylinder 92, in the act of pressing a

progressing web 11 against a fresh roll 15 and causing a splice to be made between the web 11 and a web 20, at a splice region 30.

In Figures 17 and 18, Lincoln '496 discloses an embodiment where the function of a tape support roll 50 is combined with that of the splicer or paster roll. In this embodiment, tape supporting roll 50 is positioned so that it can nip against the fresh roll 15 at the appropriate moment. When the tape support roll 50 is at a speed match, with the tape 52 positioned in the correct rotational position so as to cover the cut end 34 of the tail, the actuator 92 closes the nip immediately after the tape has passed through the open nip. The general position is as shown in FIG. 17, and the moved position of the roll 50 is shown in FIG. 18.

The Office Action contains an assertion that Lincoln '496 discloses:

. . . a paster roll, said paster roll being rotatable about a paster roll axis, said paster roll being mounted on a carriage (by definition, a machine part that drives something else) said paster roll being moveable relative to a said carriage (90 and 92, Figure 14; col. 6, line 68; col. 7 lines 1 - 4);

(Office Action dated December 23, 2009, paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4).

Lincoln '496, however, does not disclose or suggest a device in which a paster roll is mounted on a movable carriage and in which the paster roll is movable relative to the carriage, as recited in Claim 1. In Lincoln '496, the paster roll 90 is actuated by the cylinder 92. In Lincoln '496, the paster roll 90 is presumably attached to a piston that reciprocates within the actuator cylinder 92 (and is not movable relative to the piston) and the cylinder 92 (as opposed to the piston) is not movable. Accordingly, Lincoln '496 does not disclose or suggest a device in which a paster roll is mounted on a movable carriage and is movable relative to that carriage, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Claims 2-4, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16 each depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, and therefore are allowable over Lincoln '496 for at least the same reasons discussed above in regards to Claim 1.

Claim 17 recites a web splicer that comprises a first roll supporter, a second roll supporter, a paster roll mounted on a carriage, means for moving the carriage from a first carriage position to a second carriage position, and means for applying pressure on the paster roll against the second roll when the carriage is in the second carriage position. Claim 17 further recites that the paster roll is rotatable about an axis, and that the paster roll is movable relative to the carriage. Claim 17 also recites that the paster roll abuts the second roll when the carriage is in the second carriage position.

As noted above, Lincoln '496 does not disclose or suggest a device in which a paster roll is mounted on a movable carriage and is movable relative to that carriage. Accordingly, Lincoln '496 does not disclose or suggest a device that comprises (1) a paster roll that is mounted on a carriage and that is movable relative to that carriage, and (2) means for moving the carriage from a first carriage position to a second carriage position.

Accordingly, Claim 17 is patentable over Lincoln '496.

Claims 18, 19 and 21 depend directly or indirectly from claim 17 and are therefore allowable over Lincoln '496 for at least the same reasons discussed above in regard to claim 17.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 5 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lincoln '496 in view of U.S. Patent 6,096,150 (hereinafter, "Ohno '150").

Ohno '150 is cited for alleged disclosure of a carriage which moves "from a second carriage position to a first carriage position after a disengage signal is fed to the carriage driving device" (Office Action dated December 23, 2009, Page 7). The U.S. PTO does not assert that Ohno '150 would have made it obvious to modify Lincoln '496 to provide a device in which a paster roll is mounted on a movable carriage and in which the paster roll is movable relative to the carriage, as recited in claim 1, or that comprises (1) a paster roll that is mounted on a carriage and that is movable relative to that carriage, and (2) means for moving the carriage from a first position to a second position, as recited in claim 17. Accordingly, any disclosure in Ohno '150, as alleged in the Office Action, would not overcome the shortcomings of Lincoln '496 as attempted to be applied by the U.S. PTO against Claim 1, from which Claim 5 depends, or likewise of Claim 17, from which Claim 20 depends. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 20 are allowable over the applied references.

It is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lincoln '496 in view of U.S. Patent 6,050,517 (hereinafter, "Dobrescu '517").

Dobrescu '517 is cited for alleged disclosure of gears rotatable in clockwise and counter-clockwise directions, the gears causing a carriage to move, a servo motor which drives the gears, a cam, and a rack. Any such disclosure in Dobrescu '517 would not overcome the

shortcomings of Lincoln '496 as attempted to be applied by the U.S. PTO against Claims 1 and 17. Hence, Claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, (which ultimately depend from Claim 1), and Claims 22, 23, 24 and 25 (which ultimately depend from Claim 17) are allowable over the applied references, and it is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lincoln '496 in view of U.S. Patent 4,543,152 (hereinafter, "Nozaka '152").

Nozaka '152 is relied upon by the U.S. PTO for alleged disclosure of a pulse generator and a pulse counter. Any such disclosure in Nozaka '152 would not overcome the shortcomings of Lincoln '496 as attempted to be applied by the U.S. PTO against Claim 1, from which Claim 14 depends. Accordingly, Claim 14 is allowable over the applied references, and it is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 26 - 31 and 36 - 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lincoln '496.

Independent claim 26 recites a method of splicing a second web to a first web, the method comprising:

unwinding a first web from a first roll;

rotating a second roll, the second roll comprising a second web wound around a second core, the second web having a splice region on an external portion of the second roll;

actuating a pressing device to cause force to be applied to a paster roll relative to a carriage, the paster roll being mounted on the carriage, the paster roll being movable relative to the carriage; and

moving the carriage from a first carriage position to a second carriage position upon receiving an engage signal, whereby a portion of the first web is sandwiched between the paster roll and the second roll at a contact location.

Claim 26 further recites that a force applied to the first web between the paster roll and the second roll is controlled by force applied by the pressing device.

Claim 26 also recites that when the splice region passes through the contact location, the second web becomes attached to the first web along the splice region.

As discussed above, Lincoln '496 does not disclose or suggest a device in which a paster roll is mounted on a movable carriage, and the paster roll is movable relative to that carriage. Accordingly, Lincoln '496 does not disclose or suggest a method that comprises:

actuating a pressing device to cause force to be applied to a paster roll relative to a carriage, the paster roll being mounted on the carriage, the paster roll being movable relative to the carriage; and

moving the carriage from a first carriage position to a second carriage position, as recited in claim 26.

Accordingly, claim 26 is patentable over Lincoln '496.

In addition, claims 27-31, 36 and 37 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 26, and are therefore allowable over Lincoln '496 for the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 26.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 32, 33, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lincoln '496 in view of Dobrescu '517.

Dobrescu '517 is cited by the U.S. PTO for alleged disclosure of gears rotatable in clockwise and counter-clockwise directions, the gears causing a carriage to move, a servo motor which drives the gears, a cam, and a rack. Any such disclosure in Dobrescu '517 would not overcome the shortcomings of Lincoln '496 as attempted to be applied by the United States Patent and Trademark Office against Claim 26. Hence, Claims 32, 33, 34, and 35 are allowable over the applied references. It is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

In view of the above, Claims 1 - 37 are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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